

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6688  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003  
PRICE OF SET TOP BOX  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Ministry had any dialogue regarding price of alternative set top boxes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the technologies available in this regard;
- (c) whether pay channels and MSO will bear the cost;
- (d) if so, the way in which the cost will be brought down;
- (e) the extent to which it will be useful to the consumers;
- (f) whether the Ministry has asked to Finance Ministry for relaxation of duties in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government is in dialogue, with the stakeholders of the cable industry including the manufacturers, regarding pricing and technologies of set top boxes. It is expected that both digital and analogue set top boxes could be used.
- (c) & (d): The price of set top boxes will be driven by market forces. Different business models are likely to emerge in the market in order to make the same available to the subscribers. Initially, the demand is likely to be met by imports till indigenous production capacity is installed. It is expected that prices would fall with increase in volumes.
- (e): It will give the subscribers the choice to pay for only those pay channels they wish to watch.
- (f):& (g): Yes, Sir. However, there has not been any reduction in duties.